

Appendix A

Potential Scenarios for Pandemic Influenza in King County*

World Health Organization phase	Federal government response stages	Operational Scenario	Local response level	U.S. cases	Local cases	Telephone consulting services	Ambulatory care offices & clinics	Hospital Emergency Departments	Hospital inpatient units	Public information	Provider communication	Other Activities
Inter-Pandemic Period												
1 – Low risk influenza virus among animals	0 – New domestic animal outbreak in at-risk country	No human cases	Level 1 – Resources adequate	None	None	Normal function	Normal function	Normal function	Normal function	General preparedness messages	General preparedness messages	Pandemic planning and capacity building.
2 – High risk influenza virus among animals												
Pandemic Alert Period												
3 – Human infection	0 – New domestic animal outbreak in at-risk country 1 – Suspected human outbreak overseas	Isolated human cases overseas	Level 1 – Resources adequate	None	None	Normal function	Normal function	Normal function	Normal function	General preparedness messages. Information about the status of the outbreak and implications for US. Information for travelers.	PH updates to clinicians and managers. Know case evaluation, testing, management, and reporting guidelines.	Intensify/ review pandemic planning and capacity building.
4 – Person to person transmission	2 – Confirmed human outbreak overseas	Person-person transmission overseas		None	None	Slightly increased volume	Normal function	Normal function	Normal function	General preparedness messages. Simple social distancing messages.	As above	
5 – Clusters of localized person to person transmission		Large but localized clusters worldwide									Regular alerts. Monitor volumes.	
Pandemic Period												
6 - Pandemic	3 – Widespread human outbreaks in multiple locations overseas	Large clusters overseas, but no U.S. cases	Level 1 – Resources adequate	None	None	Increased volume	Slightly increased volume	Slightly increased volume	Normal function	Specific preparedness messages (possible social distancing measures)	Regular alerts. Monitor volumes.	
	4 – First human case in North America	Person-person transmission in the U.S.		1-3	None	Increased volume	Increased volume	Increased volume	Normal function	Specific preparedness messages. Expect social distancing measures.	Regular alerts. Monitor volumes.	Distribute antivirals to hospitals.
	5 – Spread throughout U.S.	Expanding epidemic in the U.S.		Few clusters	None	Markedly increased volume	Increased volume	Increased volume	Normal function, but limit elective admissions.	Specific preparedness messages. Expect social distancing measures.	Regular alerts. Monitor volumes.	Distribute antivirals to outpatient sites.
		Local cases	Multiple clusters	1-3	Markedly increased volume	Markedly increased volume. Defer elective visits.	Markedly increased volume	Influenza cases admitted. No elective admissions.	Home care messages. Contact/visit established providers. Voluntary social distancing measures.	Frequent alerts. Monitor volumes.	Mobilize 1 st tier alternate care facilities. Voluntary social distancing measures.	
		Expanding epidemic locally	Level 2 – Resources limited	1000+	10+	Nearing capacity	Approaching capacity. No elective visits.	Markedly increased volume	Nearing capacity	Home care messages. Promote call lines. Note alternate care sites. Limited enforced social distancing measures.	Frequent alerts. Monitor volumes.	Mobilize 2 nd tier alternate care facilities including hospice & mass fatalities. Limited enforced social distancing measures. Insurers cover phone consults & suspend filing deadlines.
	6 – Recovery & preparation for subsequent waves	Severe local epidemic	Level 3 – Resources unavailable	10,000+	100+	Capacity exceeded	Capacity exceeded	Capacity exceeded. Refer influenza-like illness to alternate care sites.	Capacity exceeded. Refer influenza-like illness to alternate care sites.	Home care messages. Promote call lines & alternate care sites. No ED visits for influenza. Enforced social distancing measures.	Frequent alerts. Monitor volumes.	Enforced social distancing measures.
		National epidemic waning		10,000+	100+	Near capacity	Near capacity	Near capacity. Refer influenza-like illness to alternate care sites.	Capacity exceeded. Refer influenza-like illness to alternate care sites.	Home care messages. Promote call lines & alternate care sites. Avoid ED visits for influenza. Prepare for additional waves.	Frequent alerts. Monitor volumes.	Rescind some social distancing measures.

* This is not a policy document, but rather a best guess about how matters might evolve. In reality, policy decisions will be made on the fly, based on information available to decision-makers locally.